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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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28 Feb. 1974

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Protest Against the Sejna Interviews

Prague has uttered a cry of pain over the recent Austrian TV interview with ex-General Jan Sejna, who defected from Czechoslovakia in 1968. In the interview, as in a recent Austrian magazine article, Sejna contended that the Warsaw Pact states had various contingency plans for invading Austria and Yugoslavia. Austrian Defense Minister Luetgendorf apparently participated in the same interview program.

Prague radio says that Czechoslovakia has been trying to develop good relations with Austria, but that Vienna sometimes spoils these efforts by creating tensions. Prague then notes it is "not surprised" that Austrian TV has lent itself to an attempt to torpedo the European security and force reduction talks because the TV leadership has people in contact with "the most reactionary right-wing oriented forces" in the West.

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POLAND

Werblan's Reward

When Andrzej Werblan, a veteran Communist theoretician, was elevated to the post of party secretary on February 15, he was thought to be slated for the job of top party savant on ideology. Wasting no time, the party politburo on February 27 announced that Werblan had been named director of the newly founded Institute of Basic Problems of Marxism-Leninism. Party loyalists will now read Werblan carefully to catch the nuances of prescribed orthodoxy.

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